

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR YVONNE BRATHWAITE BURKE September 28, 2004

DCFS has responsibility for assuring children are in safe, stable, permanent homes. Over 27,000 children are in the care of the Department today and many of those youth will achieve permanency through reunification, transfer of guardianship or termination of parental rights and adoption. Many of the remainder will remain in a family setting through a long-term foster care arrangement. Unfortunately some experiences have been characterized by multiple moves from home to home or lengthy stays in congregate care. It is critical to improve outcomes for this group of youth by providing alternative supports to assure a safe, stable environment that better meets their needs.

The Department has undertaken numerous initiatives to reduce the number of youth experiencing multiple moves and to assure that all children have the opportunity to live permanently with a safe stable family; and initial indications are these initiatives are demonstrating success. However, many youth entered out of home care in the 1990s and legal permanency through a family setting. This setting may no longer be a viable way to meet their needs. Therefore, a service that targets the highest-need youth and focuses on academic achievement should be explored as a strategy to improve outcomes for this group of youth. Current services are generally designed as short term and often fall short in meeting the needs of these youth as evidenced by

-M-O-R-E-

MOTION

MOLINA	_____
BURKE	_____
YAROSLAVSKY	_____
ANTONOVICH	_____
KNABE	_____

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their poor outcomes. A structured residential educational setting designed to provide safety, stability and academic support may be a viable alternative for some youth characterized by histories of multiple moves or extended stays in group home settings for treatment.

THEREFORE, I MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS direct the Director of the Department of Children and Family Services to:

1. Issue a letter of interest to available and potential community providers, including licensed group homes and organizations who have expressed interest. This letter should define a residential academy, identify the target population to be served and specify outcomes to be produced. The issuance of this letter should result in the identification of available and potential community providers for residential academy services;
2. Report back to the Board in 90 days on the results of the letter of interest.

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YBB:MS:nr (9-28-04 DCFS multiple moves)